

Notes

check Haggerty news conference Feb 9-7

Box 40

Box 59. Pres. Press Conf.

write Penn State for disting of oral histories

Tom Stephens was appointment secretary 1952

James Haggerty Oral History March 2, 67
by Ed Edwin

74

"whether he should give up, to a certain extent,
a freedom and independent thought, because you
would be committed to ~~some~~ one individual; and
wholeheartedly to that one individual?" took 2 weeks to decide

8 1/2 years with Eisenhower

Hub Brownell?

"I know everything that he did." P. 56.

"When he'd tell me to keep things quiet, I'd keep them
quiet."

70. "If anyone knew Eisenhower he would know that
nobody who didn't have top security clearance would be
in there."

- all press secretaries have highest clearance

"call of clearance, with which is the toppest - the
top one." P. 71 "you dealing with Top Secret information
and document, and every press secretary has it."

Wang Caffery, Haggerty
Secretary

Haggerty # 3 Feb 2, 68

request to move the Baerum & Bailey circus around.

- others usually with President on road. Sherman
Adams, Jerry Parsons, Tom Stevens

- if President went out socially in evening staff
got rest

finish work at 5:30 or 6.

- normally 11 or 11:30 was a late night
dinner time p. 159.

in Spain The Generalissimo wanted state dinner at

11 pm

Haggerty struck for 7 dinner was at 9

Eisenhower breakfast at 6 am. compromised at 8:30.

P.

James Magerty Deal #2 Jan 31, 68.

P112 "As press secretary, in many of the secrets of the govt, Pres DDE and I had a very well defined mutual agreement that on some matters, I had to know on a need-to-know basis. I was standing up at least twice a day at my own press conferences answering questions, and particularly questions by many personal friends of mine in the press, that I did not wish at any time to give away secrets by an inflection in my voice, by a hesitation, or by a "no comment" on a "when did you stop beating your wife?" question.

- setup Magerty and Tom Stephens in advance P.153

party

- { press secr. - work out working schedules for meetings for press ^{accom - get press out} ^{arrange}
- { appointment - personal accom. of President & party

worked with Secut Service, State Dep't people and Signal Corp people

Signal Corp - arrange for personal communications for President (single side band radio, teletypes, crypto machines for code material) 11 countries 22 days advance party

- on foreign visits moving round 250 to 300 people P.155

Tuesday, February 9, 1954

In at 8¹⁵ AM--lot of work--nothing much of big news--stories leaking on hunting trip this weekend and Palm Springs--hope to get it cleared up for press conference--

Agriculture Dept in soup again--continued to publish "Dishwashing" pamphlet that Ike lambasted in campaign as "worthless"- ordered 15,000 more copies last July--told them to lose 10,000 they still have and not to order any more--what dopes over in Agric.

Home early--and to bed

*James Haggerty Papers Box 1
1953-61. Diary Entries
Folder. Diary Portraits
Jan 4, 1954 - Feb-19, 1954*

Thursday, February 11, 1954

Most of day spent sparring with newsmen on Georgia trip--finally announced it at 4 P.M. Conference--Pres. however wanted me to hold up until 9 AM Friday place and time of landing--decided on Spence Air Base--40 miles north of Thomasville--wanted to duck going into Tallahassee in order to avoid crowds and reception--if went into Tallahassee would have to go thru city or else

Monday, February 15, 1954

In at 8:20 Leaders meeting--Knowland reported (1) Senator Langer holding up Warren confirmation for spite--insisting on FBI report (2) Postmaster nomination--expect Dems. to try to stall so is going to press for early enactment (3) Bricker Amendment due for vote this week--said Dems line up about 30-35 for George amendment.

Knowland asked Pres for up-date on Indo-China, but first said that we must study question of foreign bidding on off-shore procurement deals--worried that if bids were going to foreign countries instead to American places where unemployment was growing could be dangerous--Pres agreed and promised to have it studied.

On Indo-China, Pres said French wanted 25 planes and 400 technicians--got 10 and 200, with warning 200 would be out of Indo-China by June 15--military situation not as bad as reported. Viet-Mihn dispersing forces with political attacks, and forcing Fr. to likewise disperse--but situation fairly favorable to FR.

Leaders quotes -- Ike on being told Wayne Morse went down to Texas to attack Lyndon Johnson as not being a liberal, "Hell, Lyndon should pay him to come back and stay down there."

Ike, on Warren nomination - "Is Senator Langer dragging his feet on this. If he is, I'll have one of my slickers go down and see him. Damn him, he's casting grave doubts on the integrity of one of the greatest statesmen given to the Supreme Court in our times.

Saltonstall, on 2,200 - "It's a funny thing. I never expected to have sex perversion as a topic of conversation at the dinner table until I came to Washington."

Over to Atomic Energy Commission at 2 PM to see film on H-bomb--version fixed up for possible public release--think it should be, but still too technical in spots--Lewis Strauss and I later talked about 3/4 million bucks he giving for "bath tub" project on uranium--could revolutionize things and give small nations a "cut-in"

California visit will be screwy--release news we were going and then everybody trying to get into act. Darrel [sic] Zanuck called to help--will use him to check-up on reds in Hollywood

Rowley tells me Puerto Rican problem kicking up again--meeting in Chicago tonight--SS on top and checking all the time--

Tuesday, February 16, 1954

In at 8:15--Cabinet meeting--Topics (1) unemployment (2) Schedule "C" (3) Pay Raises (4) Health Insurance (5) Life Insurance (6) Appearances before GOP Congressional Secretaries Club (7) Expediting Legislative Requests

(1) Weeks on unemployment--new method of[words illegible]...--apparently approved by Weeks, up unemployment 700,000--darn fool to approve it without knowing what it would show--figures leaking anyway--decision to give it out and take it--bound to be political repercussions, with Dems. rubbing it in--Pres said: "That's right--it would be bad to have it forced out of us"

(2) Schedule "C" -- Young reported of 1690 requested--870 approved vs. 820 disapproved--Kyes "trouble is to knock out personnel officers"

(3) Pay raises - "\$14.5 tops in classified service--not to go above Congressional salaries at this time

Cabinet quotes - Ike on Schedule "C" - "I'm getting weary of politicians threatening me with dire things. Get that Schedule C cleared up."

Ike on Civil Service procedures - "Once in a while you have to skin the cat another way. Here's an example. We recently appointed a man in a lower grade and the man at the top resigned. We wanted to get rid of him anyway."

California getting really steamed up about our trip to Palm Springs--all the crackpots are calling and wiring us--asked FBI to give me list of Red Hollywoodites so can spot them--leaving after press conference tomorrow--take off at 3 P.M.

*check
Hagarty phone
records.*

Wednesday, February 17, 1954

In at 8¹⁵ AM--Press Conference at 2 PM--then left for Palm Springs--take out
at 3 P.M.--arrive, non-stop, Palm Springs at 9³⁰ Pacific time--uneventful flight

Thursday, February 18, 1954

At Palm Springs -- Palm Springs is quite a place -- beautiful --

Friday, February 19, 1954

At Palm Springs -- Hoffman--...[words illegible]...party at El Mirador--fairly quiet day.

Saturday, February 20, 1954

At Palm Springs - Pres broke cap off tooth - had it fixed at local dentist - Dr. C.A. Purcell - AP, from Syracuse, flashed "Pres. Eisenhower died tonight of a heart attack at Palm Springs" - someone fooling around with teletype - moved on open state wire - caused some hell but AP killed it 2 minutes later - Called AP New York offices for explanation and to demand a full report.

Tennis Club in evening.

*James Hogearty Papers Box 1
Portion James Hogearty Diary
Feb 20 - April 15, 1954.*

Electronically scanned by the
Library of Congress

Sunday, February 21, 1954

At Palm Springs - Pres to church at 9 30 - stayed at ranch rest of day - I loafed around hotel. - ~~Met~~-B Betty Hutton gave western party at some canyon - good affair.

Handwritten notes or stamps, mostly illegible.

Monday, February 22, 1954

At Palm Springs - fairly quiet day - Pres golfed at Tamarisk - loafed at pool at El Mirador - Hotel [Biltmore?] in evening

Pres. office report for the
week ending February 22, 1954
Pres. office report for the
week ending February 22, 1954

Tuesday, February 23, 1954

At Palm Springs - Before leaving had a flare up when Ray Scherer of NBC asked me at pool about "attempted assassination" of Pres - on checking found 2 drunks called at Smoke Tree in old car - SS found 22 rifle in back - arrested by Palm Springs Police for vagrancy - gave it out immediately in order to kill wild stories.

Left Palm Springs 8 ³⁰ P.M. and arrived Mats 7 ³⁰ AM

MR. HAGERTY'S
PRESS AND RADIO CONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 16, 1954
AT 3.55 PM EST

James Hagerty Files
Box 440 Hagerty Press
Conferences Jan 54 - April 54 (2)

MR. HAGERTY: On the schedule, 8.30, National Security Council. Then the President will leave at 10.55 for the conference on Traffic Safety at the Departmental Auditorium, where he will say a few words of greeting to the opening session of the White House Conference of Traffic Safety.

Q. No text?

MR. HAGERTY: No. At 11.45 Congressman Leslie Arends, Dewey Short, and Mr. John Blandford, Special Counsel of the House Armed Services Committee. At 12.30 the Ambassador of The Netherlands, Dr. J. H. van Roijen, and the Minister of Defense of The Netherlands, Cornelias Spaf, and the Deputy Secretary of Defense, Roger Kyes. The Minister of Defense is making a courtesy call on the President. Press conference at 2.15.

Departure immediately after the press conference.

Q. Well, three o'clock?



MR. HAGERTY: Whatever time you get finished. Between three and three-thirty.

At the present time we can't give you the exact arrival time. I just talked to Draper and there is going to be a lot of wind against us -- both planes going out -- best we can estimate now is we will arrive at Palm Springs -- oh, between 9.30 and 10 say -- probably about in the middle there, some place -- I mean between nine and ten, their time.

Q. Can we just make it 9.30 estimated, just for the sake of getting something down, and correct it later?

MR. HAGERTY: Yes. Around 9.30.

Q. That will be 12.30 this time here.

MR. HAGERTY: Yes. And that's all I have on the schedule.

Q. Sherman Adams is speaking up in New York Thursday to some worthy group. Will there be any text?

MR. HAGERTY: Yes.

Q. Do you know when?

MR. HAGERTY: Thursday afternoon or ---

Q. (interposing) What about the atomic message?

MR. HAGERTY: I should know in a few minutes. I would think it would be going up tomorrow, but if you just wait until I get finished with it, I will let you know for sure.

Q. Wait right here, or in the press room?

MR. HAGERTY: No, no. You are going to be around for a little while?

Q. Sure.

Q. What about the guest list for the dinner tonight?

- 2 -

MR. HAGERTY: You got that?

MRS. GANSS: It's on its way, Mr. Hagerty. I called about five minutes ago and they were just about ready. It should be here by four.

MR. HAGERTY: It's four now. I will check again.

Q. For the record, have you been asked about rumors that the President might go elsewhere after Palm Springs?

MR. HAGERTY: No. Where? From there?

Q. To Eniwetok.

MR. HAGERTY: No.

Q. I heard about it coming down on the elevator in the Star, somebody says he is going to Hawaii to confer with Syngman Rhee. I didn't know whether they were kidding or not.

Q. Was it the elevator man? (laughter)

Q. The hydrogen bomb test at Eniwetok.

MR. HAGERTY: I don't know -- No.

Q. By what time this afternoon would you think you would know about the atomic message?

MR. HAGERTY: Within an hour.

Q. Thank you, sir.

END



MR. HAGERTY'S
PRESS AND RADIO CONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 16, 1954
AT 10:32 AM EST

MR. HAGERTY: While we are waiting for the other wires, I haven't got a thing.

Q. Have you seen the first Robin yet -- tweet-tweet?

Q.. Quite a turn out here this morning.

MR. HAGERTY: Yes, and I haven't got a thing, unless you ladies and gentlemen have some questions. Cabinet meeting is now on, and that's all I know.

Q. Say, Jim, this Message on atomic energy to be released at eight o'clock Wednesday --

MR. HAGERTY: (interposing) Wait a minute ---

Q. (interposing) I know, but ---

MR. HAGERTY: (continuing) --- wait a minute -- I didn't say that. I said if it goes up tomorrow it will be released at eight.

Q. If it?

MR. HAGERTY: If it goes up, Yes, and as a matter of fact, the President is going to take a look at it this afternoon, and I would think it would be going up tomorrow all right, and if it does, I would have it at 8:30 up there for the leaders, and at eight here.

Q. Flat Noon?

MR. HAGERTY: Yes

Q. Do you know about how long it is?

MR. HAGERTY: About four thousand.

Q. This is a hold-it-up day today.

Q. Will that be the only message, Jim?

MR. HAGERTY: What do you mean?

Q. On that subject?

Q. On that subject?

MR. HAGERTY: No -- that is the only one I know at the present time. Now whether -- now whether there would be any message at some time in the future on the President's UN proposal, I can't guess at the present time, I just don't know. This does not deal with that.

Q. The news conference situation tomorrow, Jim, is that firm or definite yet?



Mr. HAGERTY: 2:15.

Q. 2:15.

Q. 2:15.

Q. How about the take-off time?

MR. HAGERTY: It will be after the press conference, and I can't get it to you yet. I hope to get it to you by this afternoon. Do you know what time the press plane is going out?

Q. I heard, Noon.

Q. The office asked me to ask if you had in mind the same advance photographic arrangements in California as you had the Humphrey place?

MR. HAGERTY: What do you mean?

Q. You let us in a day ahead before the President arrived.

MR. HAGERTY: No, there is no picture of the home.

Q. None of the home?

MR. HAGERTY: None.

Q. Not even exterior?



MR. HAGERTY: No, No, it's --- we have no control over that, but there won't be any. They are out there today taking millions of pictures of the press rooms and stuff like that, that's all right.

Q. Bathing beauties?

Q. Jim, what about the --- will the local reporters need any special credentials?

MR. HAGERTY: Yes, and this is not -- I don't want to make a story out of it ---

Q. (interposing) No, No -- just want to send a wire back out there on it.

MR. HAGERTY: We are undoubtedly arriving there sometime tomorrow evening and to get on the field or anything like that, they just need their own credentials. Then starting the next morning, White House credentials will go into effect, and they will have to be accredited. We will use that Trip of the President badge as the credentials for going in and out.

Q. Do you foresee any need for their sending names in here now?

MR. HAGERTY: Now, after the -- I would think he would -- when he gets out there he would go directly to his home and I would go on to the hotel and give out the credentials, or the next morning.

Now one other thing, and this is just for the men that are going, I wish you would help cooperate with us on this -- when we get there, we will at all times move, if we move any place, we will move with a wire car and still photographers car and a newsreel car. You will have to -- we will police it for you -- only allow one man for each outfit in those cars, and nobody else. Now if the ---

Q. (interposing) There will be, just to rephrase it, the locals can get their credentials, they will not need any White House credentials to cover the landing.

MR. HAGERTY: No

Q. Where is the landing, at the Palm Springs airport?

MR. HAGERTY: I would assume so. I will find that out, I am sure of that. Where's Dewey, tell him to come down here.

But they won't need any credentials there, but next morning and on they will need the Trip of the president badge.

Q. To get in where?

MR. HAGERTY: Well, if we go -- we will have an office there -- I assume will have some work.

Q. At the El Mirador you will need credentials to get in and out of the setup there?

MR. HAGERTY: Well Yes, you will need some, but you will also need ones if we go out there for any occasion or any place else, you will need the White House credentials, and on the -- also that -- there is one photographer per paper out there.

Q. You mentioned going anywhere, what about the specials going from here would we be ---

Q. (interposing) The large Greyhound bus ---

MR. HAGERTY: (Interposing) We will have a bus.

Q. Mexican press excluded?

Q. And photographers? (laughter)

MR. HAGERTY: But I will be --- as soon as he gets there, I will come back to the hotel and to the press room, and give the credentials out.

Q. Your headquarters will be at the El Mirador?

MR. HAGERTY: My address will be the El Mirador.

Q. Do you have any dope on -- can you tell us now who is going with him, outside of Mrs. Eisenhower?

MR. HAGERTY: Mrs. Eisenhower, and Mrs. Doud, and a small staff -- Tom Stephens, and myself. I don't know the gals yet.

Q. The doctor?

MR. HAGERTY: Yes, Major Tkach -- Walter.

Q. When would you say this one reporter and one camera man policy would go into effect, if you went out to the ranch, something like that?

MR. HAGERTY: Yes, something like that.

Q. Anything involving coverage.

MR. HAGERTY: That's right.



Q. In other words, a pool?

MR. HAGERTY: No.

Q. He is just saying one from one organization.

MR. HAGERTY: One from one organization.

Q. I get you.

MR. HAGERTY: No pool.

Long: We leave here at 12:30, refuel at Denver and get out there about an hour ahead of the other party. Check in at 12.

Q. We land at the Palm Springs airport?

Long: Yes.

Q. The regular airport?

Long: Arrive between 7:30 and eight o'clock.

Q. Is it dark out there by then?

MR. HAGERTY: It will be dark when we come in. I don't know whether it's dark out there at 7:30 or eight.

You might put this on the wire, if you would, that the lid closes at one o'clock today, please.

Q. The COLUMBINE does not refuel?

MR. HAGERTY: No, we go straight through.

Q. Said something on the air that George Allen is out there and has a home out there. Is he going to be there?

MR. HAGERTY: He has a home there. I don't know whether he is going to be there or not.

Q. How about Vice President Nixon? I heard that he will be in South California. Do you know one way or another?

MR. HAGERTY: Well, I talked to him this morning and he didn't give any indication that he was.

Q. Is he still out there?

MR. HAGERTY: No, He is right here in the Cabinet room.

And we have reservations set for you at the hotel and we will work out in the press room and it will be at the El Mirador.

Q. Black tie required, to get in the press room?

MR. HAGERTY: White jacket.

Q. White jacket and black tie.

Q. Is it true that the hotel was named after a cigar (laughter)



Mr. Hagerty: I wouldn't know.

Q. I hope it doesn't smell like one.

Q. Thank you, sir.

MR. HAGERTY: That's all I have this morning, gentlemen.



MR. HAGERTY'S
PRESS AND RADIO CONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 15, 1954
AT 4:21 P.M. EST



MR. HAGERTY: All I have is the schedule, 9 o'clock tomorrow morning the Cabinet, Bedell Smith Acting Secretary of State, William Rand Acting Director of FOA. At 12 o'clock Senators Dworshak of Idaho, Malone of Nevada, Anderson of New Mexico and Hayden of Arizona. They asked to come in to see the President to discuss lead and zinc mining in their respective States. At 12:30 the President will receive a group of overseas students, sponsored by the New York Herald Tribune. At two o'clock Arthur Flemming, Director of ODM. He comes in for a meeting like this about every three weeks. At 2:30 Senators Watkins and Bennett of Utah, and Congressmen Stringfellow and Dawson. They asked to see the President. We do not know the subject. At eight o'clock the President and Mrs. Eisenhower will give a dinner at the White House for the Speaker of the House. And that's all I have on ---

Q. (interposing) When is the atomic energy message expected and how long will it be?

MR. HAGERTY: It won't be up tomorrow. Probably be up before we go. Trying to get it ready to send up Wednesday. I would rather not announce that -- just for your own information, and it will run -- don't use it, but when we know for sure -- but it will run about 4 thousand. I will get it out by eight o'clock in the morning, for flat Noon release. But don't use that yet.

Q. No.

MR. HAGERTY: One thing I would appreciate it if the wires men would put on the ticker, particularly here, that the list for Palm Springs will close tomorrow at one o'clock. We have to make considerable reservation both on plane and hotel accommodations. The press headquarters and the press will be at the El Mirador Hotel. Telephone number Palm Springs 2044.

Q. You say there would be no speeches out in California?

MR. HAGERTY: None that I know of. That is just for your guidance. I don't know of any. That's all I have, unless you ladies and gentlemen have some questions.

Q. Thank you.

MR. HAGERTY'S
PRESS AND RADIO CONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 15, 1954
AT 10:30 AM EST

MR. HAGERTY: Several nominations -- that one, I think, is self-explanatory, U. S. Court of Claims. Now, Mr. Laramore resides at Knox, Indiana. He is presently Judge of the 44th Judicial Circuit Court -- it's a State court. Was elected to that office in 1944, re-elected 1950. Prior to that he had served for two years as Judge protem on the court. He was born December 22, 1906, in Hamlet, Indiana. Admitted to the bar of the State in 1931 and the salary is what?

HAWKS: Seventeen five.

Q. A republican, I take it, Jim?

HAWKS: Yes



MR. HAGERTY: Yes. All right -- now there seems to be some interest in regard to the President going some place or other. The President hopes to go to Palm Springs, California, this week, for four or five days. They plan to leave -- at the present time they are planning to leave some time Wednesday afternoon, returning Monday the 22nd. Mrs. Eisenhower will accompany him. The President and Mrs. Eisenhower had promised to go to Palm Springs -- as a matter of fact, in 1950 -- they had never been there before. This is the first time they are going.

Q. Who did they promise, Hoffman?

MR. HAGERTY: Yes. He will not stay at Hoffman's place. He will stay at a place known as Smoke Tree Ranch. Now, that is not -- just for your information -- that is not a ranch as such, as they call them ranches out there. It is a development, and -- oh, maybe ten or fifteen people that have this land and have their ranch houses on the land. In other words, it is not a working ranch.

Q. That is not Hoffman's property?

MR. HAGERTY: No. He will stay at the home out there of Paul L. Helms.

Q. Who is he, Jim?

MR. HAGERTY: He is a personal friend.

Q. Is he a guest of the Helmses then, instead of Hoffman?

MR. HAGERTY: He will use Mr. Helms's home.

Q. And Hoffman is going to be there, too?

MR. HAGERTY: (answer inaudible)

Q. He runs a bakery in Palm Springs?

MR. HAGERTY: No, in the State of California.

Q. Where would the President's working quarters be, in this place too?

MR. HAGERTY: No. There will be -- and we will take, of course, a staff with us -- and he will have a working office on the property. I can't tell you where it is going to be, I just don't know.

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Q. What are the prospects for a news conference this week then?

MR. HAGERTY: We plan to have a news conference Wednesday afternoon before we leave.

Q. Wednesday afternoon?

Q. What is the take-off time?

MR. HAGERTY: I don't know yet. Probably right after the press conference.

Q. That would mean that you would not have it as late as you ordinarily would in the afternoon?

MR. HAGERTY: I would think about two or two-fifteen.

Q. Is Hoffman going to be out there?

MR. HAGERTY: I would assume so, Yes -- sure.

Q. The original invitation was extended by Mr. Hoffman some years ago?

MR. HAGERTY: 1950 -- and every month or every year since then, that's right.

Q. Hoffman extended this invitation?

MR. HAGERTY: That's right.

Q. Do you know whether Hoffman may also have a place on this Smoke Tree development?

MR. HAGERTY: He has a place. It's either on that development or right next to it. It's in the immediate vicinity.

Q. What will he be doing there in the way of relaxation -- golf?

MR. HAGERTY: Well, in the first place, there is a lot of sun, and in the second place, there is golf, too, I believe. But we expect to have the regular work -- White House office set up and a working office there on the property.

Q. Returning next Monday?

MR. HAGERTY: Yes, Monday.

Q. Leave there on Monday?

MR. HAGERTY: That's right.

Q. Does he plan any conferences out there?

MR. HAGERTY: What with, Stevie?

Q. With anyone.

MR. HAGERTY: Not that I know of.

Q. With California political people?

MR. HAGERTY: Not that I know of, but I would imagine -- I just don't know.

Q. No other stops contemplated out there and back?



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MR. HAGERTY: No, Bob.

Q. Both ways by plane?

MR. HAGERTY: Both ways by plane. I will tell -- now, if we have a press conference, we expect those that are going will probably have to be out of that press conference because the press plane will go out ahead. It is just for your own information.

Q. Why not have the press conference 10.30 Wednesday morning?

MR. HAGERTY: He can't because we are moving up the National Security Council.

Q. We will put up a list on the board, and we will have to close it fairly quick.

Q. Somebody will be torn between whether they want to go to the press conference or get on the press plane in advance.

Q. What a decision to have to make!

Q. Thank you, sir.

MR. HAGERTY: But we will stay -- I don't know the name of the hotel, but we will stay in town. It's two and half or three-quarters of a mile from there.

Q. How about this atomic message?

MR. HAGERTY: We expect to have the message up to Congress before we leave.

END



set up other ones.

Hagerty: Well, it was pretty simple. I mean, the format ^{was always} pretty much the same, ^{or at least it was} the way Mr. Eisenhower developed it. The press secretary and ~~the~~ appointment secretary, Tom Stephens, usually headed the White House ~~staff~~ ~~on the~~ advance party. ~~That~~ That advance party, on any trip of the President's, is broken down into components. My job, as press secretary, was to work out the working schedules of the meetings, plus ~~the~~ arrangements for the press, ~~the~~ accommodations for the press, ~~the~~ accommodations for getting the copy out. ^{If we were} ~~old~~ ~~be~~ going into a dictator country, I had to insist ~~ing~~ that there be no censorship of either written copy or film ^{in that country.} Most countries have a law that you have to develop film inside the country before you can ship it out, ~~and~~ ^{My} arguments, which ^{were always accepted,} ~~are usually all right now,~~ ^{our press would} were that ~~we could~~ send the film out undeveloped, ~~and~~ without censorship. ~~and things like that.~~



Tom Stephens' job was to set up the personal accommodations of the President and his party. ^{And} both of us were working with the other components, which ^{were} the Secret Service, the State Department people in the territory or country, and the Signal Corps people. Now, the Secret Service people are obvious, the State Department people are obvious. The Signal Corps always sends you along, ~~and that is to~~ arrange for the personal communications of the President, and in most countries ~~usually private,~~ ^{will be} although you have to go on the assumption that they ~~are~~ all tapped, most of the

2/2/54
66175

time, unless you go into a friendly country. Well, I won't even
 say a friendly country. But they have to set up the personal
 facilities, and these include direct telephones from the White
House to wherever he's going to be, single side band radio, teletypes,
crypto machines for code material. It depends upon how long you're
 going to stay in a country or what the details are, how long you
 stay there in advance. ~~If you're going to three or four countries,~~
~~or on one trip where you hit eleven countries at one time, it's 22~~
~~days, the advance party.~~



~~Then~~ In each country, ^{of personnel,} you start off with a couple of
 plane loads, and in each country, you leave two security people and
 a Signal Corps detachment to work out the more detailed arrangements
 with the country's ^{people ~~not~~ work} our Secret Service with their security, our
 Signal Corps ^{people} working with their communication people. But you set
 the general rules and regulations and then these guys have to
 work out the details, and in both the communications and the security
 side, ^{I didn't} you ~~don't~~ get into ^{these details} them too much other than to say what ^{The President} you ~~want~~ ^{ed.}

The hardest job, without being rude, is to do your best
 to conform the President's personal habits ~~and the American personal~~
~~habits~~ with the customs of the country ~~and that~~ ^{sometimes} particularly is
 not easy, ^{particularly} ~~and~~ when you have ^{those} your ~~own~~ ^{state} damned dinners. I mean, if
 you go to a Latin country, they'll say, "Well, we start a state
 dinner at 11 o'clock at night," and you'll say, "Oh, no!"

Or, in another country, you'll say, "The President, ~~the~~
~~head of our country~~ would like to have breakfast --

"Should 12 o'clock be fine?"

You say, "Well, the President of the United States normally has breakfast at 7 o'clock," and they ^{are shocked,} ~~go white,~~ you know.

You have to work out these things. You have to work out when the other people ^{attending the meeting} in the various echelons of the State Department personnel are ^{to sit down} ~~meeting~~ with their opposite numbers ^{and you} ~~and~~ ^{have to agree} when the heads of state will meet, and that's usually late in the afternoon or evening. [#] It's like operating the Barnum and Bailey Circus, because any time you go, you're talking about a movement of at least 250, 300 people. That includes the President, the Signal Corps, his staff, the Secret Service, the press. Then you have to work out with the other country the arrangements for additional press in their country and additional press from surrounding areas that come in ~~and~~ ^{It's a lot of work,} but once you do it you get into a sort of routine ~~and~~ ^{Then you} always report back ^{to the White House} each night by cable, through your own embassy, on the arrangements. ^A And you get the OK the next morning from the President, or ~~there are~~ suggested changes ~~and~~ ^{If there are} suggested changes, you go back and do the best you can to argue or get them to change it -- all of this remembering it's their country, not yours, and that you have to observe the amenities, and so does the President. And if things get real sticky, you just say, "I'll have to wire back for more instructions. These are my instructions, they're at variance with yours, I will wire back and let you know the next day."

It's a tough hard job. Then you come back. Then you go back



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But it was a warm friendship. Remember also that Anthony Eden was the second man to Winston Churchill for a long time. So that Mr. Eisenhower knew Mr. Eden almost as long a time as he knew Sir Winston.

President Eisenhower
~~In other countries--he~~ had a strange and quite-good-working relationship with Charles de Gaulle. He may have been the last President of the United States to have that ~~to date~~. There was a great deal of mutual respect.

There are two stories that illustrate that. As a matter of fact, *I heard them* on the first advanced trip that I made to France when Charles de Gaulle was President. President Eisenhower was going to stay at Roch^aambeau, which is De Gaulle's summer castle or palace in the south of Paris. I was down there and had the privilege of having about a 30-minute personal conversation with Mr. de Gaulle through interpreters. (I can't speak French the classical way that he can. His French is magnificent.) He told me these stories himself. When I got back, I asked President Eisenhower about them.

He said, "Yes, that's right."

De Gaulle apparently never forgot these two stories, because he went out of his way to tell them to me--on how he admired the President. Both have been published time and time again, although I had not heard them at the time but I have seen them published since.

The first one is the following. After the African cam-



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paign was finished and after we had started the invasion of France, ^{had been successfully launched,} De Gaulle was going to fly to French soil--to the south of France. Everything was all set.

General Walter Bedell Smith, chief of staff to Eisenhower--who was then in Africa--came in and said, "Oh, my God. General de Gaulle won't go!"

Eisenhower said, "Well, what's the matter?"

"Well, De Gaulle says he's not going to go in an American plane--it has to be a French plane!" They didn't have any French planes at that time. They were all American or British planes down there.

General Eisenhower said to General Smith: "Bedell, get the General in the ~~exit~~ salle d'honneur at the airport. Then get a sergeant, give him some paint, go out and paint the American stars off that plane, and put the ^{French} ~~British~~ tricolor on the plane." That is exactly what they did.

After a reasonable length of time to allow the sergeant-artist to do his work, they led General de Gaulle to the plane and said, "General, here's your French plane."

He said, "Thank you very much." And he went on his French plane over to France.

The second ~~is~~ story is about when Eisenhower came into Paris, ^{after its liberation from the Nazis.} De Gaulle had preceded him, as you remember, and had



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And that would be, the Department of State, the Department of Defense, the CIA, the Attorney General's office and things like that. Then the other group is a group that is primarily domestic -- the Department of Agriculture, where it does not come in to shipment of foreign, surplus foods overseas, the Department of Interior, the Department of Labor, the Postoffice, and ^{business} things like that.

Now, in the domestic field, ^{it} that was rather simple, ~~and my~~ rule, which I ^{received} was ~~operating on~~, from the President, was that in these domestic Departments, once you made a decision, get it out and get it out fast, ~~and that~~ you would make a very bad mistake in holding it because sooner or later, with the comprehensive press coverage in Washington, somebody's going to know it, so get it and get it out fast.

But, when you come to the sensitive agencies of the government, this is another matter entirely. In the world we live in, and have been living in since World War II, there are overt and there are covert activities of the American government -- for our own protection. I always remember a question_x that President Eisenhower had addressed to him one time -- I forget what the occasion_x was, but it was directed along this line: "Mr. President, can you tell us about Intelligence information that the CIA has gotten on such and such a question?"

His answer was very simple: "Well, if I tell you about it, it isn't Intelligence, is it?"

This is the way you have to work. Where Intelligence is not a part, where there is a policy decision that is overt within a sensitive Department, again the first rule, the same rule should apply: get it out as fast as you can. But there are many things that you cannot talk about, for the national security of the United States, and indeed for the national security of our friends and allies throughout the world. Now, ~~not~~ many of the newsmen in Washington understood this and agreed with this, ~~and~~ many times when I would get a question that touched on ~~this~~ ^{security} I would just say, "Gentlemen, I'm sorry, I cannot answer this question. This deals with the security of the United States." And most of the time the newsmen would realize this too and would not ~~ask~~ ^{Pursue} it.

You want to remember one thing - the newsmen in Washington, ~~I~~ the good ones, have many times as much of a working knowledge of a Department as the Cabinet officer. They are there for years, year in and year out, and they have seen administrations come and go. A Cabinet officer at the most is there for eight years, many times not quite that long. So the good newsmen in Washington understand this. But it is difficult.

It is also difficult in answering questions on the



Security

into It is difficult

spur of the moment, particularly when you get ~~in~~ ^{into} this field, to remember on the spur of the moment, on sensitive areas, whether it has been made public, whether it is about to be made public, or whether it is in classification "~~top secret~~" and should not be made public. It is tough on a press secretary, but if he has any doubts, he can say, "I don't know, I'll check." It is much more difficult on a President in a press conference because he has all this information in his head, much more than the press secretary has, and he has to make that spur of the moment decision mentally, ~~and~~ it's a very difficult thing. But by and large I think it's a system that not only works but is rather widely understood by the good news men and women in Washington. They realize as much as the government people realize that there are some things you cannot discuss. But it's a very sticky situation, ~~and~~ there's one more field that I have talked about before, but in this context I think I'd better bring it up again. Even in these domestic Departments that I'm talking about, if a policy is made to go ahead and do something, many times the study that ~~has~~ to be made before you make your determination ^{Concerns} ~~is~~ not just one Department, ^{but} ~~it is~~ three or four Departments, and until they come back in with their suggestions or their recommendations, ~~that~~ ^{it} is not an adopted policy. Now, a reporter may get ^{word or a leak} from a Department saying, "We're looking into this, this, this and this." If he comes to me or he comes to an information



officer, ^{and} asks you a question ^{about a subject} that has not finally been determined, I don't think it's management or I don't think it's holding out the news to just say, "Look, nothing has been decided finally on this and until it is, I have no comment."



Here again is where you get into or get on a rather sticky wicket. Now, I don't blame the newsman, if he gets a fraction of this, if he so wishes, to write that fraction, provided that he writes it as the fraction of a story and not the whole. Again, many newsmen, if they run up against this, have this fraction of a story and get it from a government source whom they trust that this has not finally been decided, ^{They} will hold it until it's been decided, although there are others who feel that they have an ^{ob} obligation, and I don't quarrel with it, to write that fraction. But most of the time, it's the fraction, the publication of the fraction, that will turn out wrong, because the ~~matter~~ has not yet been finally decided.

Q: Are there instances when a fraction of a story, which may be the story from one Department, section of a Department -- are there times when this is deliberately leaked to a reporter?

Hagerty: Oh, sure. Oh, certainly. This is done time and time again, ~~and~~ I would suspect it was probably done by the Cabinet officers in George Washington's first term. ~~mainly in the~~

leaks



There are always partisans ⁱⁿ of any given Department, and many times a deliberate leak, by somebody in a Department, ^{make} is to try to influence the final decision, more in favor of that Department. I suppose over the years maybe the Department that did this the most was the Department of Defense, in the rivalry between the Army, the Air Force, the Marine Corps and the Navy. I don't think they did it much during the eight years President Eisenhower was there, because he knew where every body and every source of information was in the Pentagon and he let them know it, right at the start of his term. He had worked in that Pentagon system himself, and there was less of that in the Defense Department under Eisenhower than there was in any President before him or any President since. ~~although~~, with the reorganization, as you remember, of the Defense Department, which occurred when Forrestal became the first Secretary of Defense, ^{this} has changed ~~it~~ a lot, ^{for the better} and the admirals and the generals and the major generals, lieutenant generals, brigadiers, colonels, even majors and captains, realize that at the top of their Department is civilian authority and not military authority, ~~and there is less and less of that.~~ But for many years the internal service rivalries were nothing but leak after leak after leak, deliberately. This still happens within other Departments, and human nature being what it is, I don't see how anybody can ever stop it completely. All you have to do, however, is, every now and then make darned sure that information that is given, which might be

Defense leaks



Q: What about preparing a man to make those decisions?

Hagerty: Well, look, Mr. Eisenhower was the first President in our history that actually trained the Vice President to become a President. You know, there's a story that Mr. Truman has in his memoirs. ^{from the time that} ~~then~~ Mr. Truman was nominated with Mr. Roosevelt on the ticket, and at that time I think the Democratic conventions were still in June or July ~~from the time he was nominated until~~ the time Mr. Roosevelt died, Mr. Truman, as Vice Presidential candidate, as Vice President-elect, as Vice President, ~~himself~~, ^{Mr. Truman} saw Mr. Roosevelt eight times. When ~~he~~ took the oath of office, and he lowered his hands, Mr. Forrestal, then Secretary of Defense, had to step up to the then President of the United States and say, "I have to see you, Mr. President." ~~And~~ this was in the middle of the war, toward the end of the war, as you might recall. He said, "I have to tell you something, now that you're President."

That something he had to tell the Vice President who became President was the ~~atomic~~ atomic bomb. ~~And~~ Mr. Truman as Vice President didn't know a darned thing about the atomic bomb while he was Vice President. That can't happen any more. And Mr. Eisenhower was the man who started to elevate the Vice Presidency so that it actually is a training job for President.

^{Vice}
The President, under Mr. Eisenhower, became not just the

Hagerty: No.

Q: I was wondering, again a sensitive matter, if you had anything further from a public relations standpoint on the U-2?

Hagerty: Nothing except what I said before.

Q: On another speech, General Eisenhower's sort of farewell speech, what do you recall of that speech on the military industrial complex?



Hagerty: Well, I would think the genesis started the day he became President, ^{and Eric + up} and throughout his eight years, I was privileged ~~again~~ ^{with Jim} in private conversations, and I think by now it's established what those private conversations were, ^{They occurred mainly while} ~~that we were~~ ^{Whe} traveling ~~many times~~ and I was the only staff officer, because where the President was, the press was ~~and~~ we had many, many, oh, hours and hours over the years ~~to be alone~~ ⁱⁿ in a plane, in a car, in a hotel suite, for breakfast, for late dinner, where he would, to some extent just let his hair down and I'd listen.

The military industrial complex

~~And this~~ was a rising concern to him, as I say, from the day he became President. It was about, I would say, midway through his second term when he started to say, "Jim, I'm going to make this speech. I'm going to make it ^{as} the last ^{major} speech before I leave office." That speech was straight Eisenhower, and it was

written, drafted, redrafted, off and on, ^{almost} ~~almost~~ for a year before he gave it. Maybe the words "drafted" are not quite correct, but it was outlined in his mind and in conversations, ~~and~~ I can always remember, when ^{that} ~~I saw~~ the actual written drafts that ^{he was} ~~he was~~ working on and going over and the final text as delivered on the air ~~was~~ varied very little from the discussions, the private discussions, that we'd had over the years. It was expanded and spelt out more in detail, but it was, ~~I would think~~ ^{same} ~~that this was really the product of being President for eight years and thinking about this problem.~~ I personally believe that in time, in time, it can be one of the most important speeches that an American President has ever made. It certainly contains a warning, and it certainly contains a prophecy that if we continue on the road this world is going, that we're going to be in serious trouble.

So I think it is one of his truly great speeches, ~~but again,~~ ^{this private conversation on the} ~~I repeat,~~ I can recall starting to talk privately about this ^{subject} ~~in his talking to me,~~ which sometimes ^{were his} ~~was~~ just thinking out loud. ~~I can remember this almost, I won't say from the day he became President, but on the first time we went away for any length of time from Washington, where we had time alone. As I say,~~ about two years before he gave it, he said he was going to make this as his final speech before he left office.

Q: How would you characterize President Eisenhower's mood as he

If he had one alter ego, it was his brother Milton, ~~and many times --~~ and I guess ^a the President has to have an alter ego, he has to have one person outside of his own family, I mean his wife or his children, that he can completely let his hair down ^{with} and talk ~~on many~~ of the things that are bothering him or the problem before him or anything else, and Milton was that man. Many times Milton would come over and spend the whole night over at the White House, come over for dinner, and they'd talk through dinner until 11, 12 at night. This seemed to relax him as well, even though they might be talking about very serious and important problems.

Whenever he could, ~~the few times he did~~, his relaxations aboard ships of the Navy were tremendous. ~~For instance, when we went down --~~ when he went down to Bermuda for one of the conferences with the British, I guess it was McMillan, he took a cruiser and ~~we~~ steamed down slowly, took three days to get there, ~~and~~ ^{for} three days, while he was studying during the morning or afternoon some of the papers and everything preparatory to the meeting, all he did was relax. The same thing was true in the middle of his eleven nation trip when he went and spent three days on ^{a cruiser} the ships in the Mediterranean. The same was true when we used ^{another} the cruiser from the Philippines to Formosa, overnight. He liked that.

Also when he went and traveled around the country, he ~~also~~ seemed to get a great change of pace and relaxation